1/24/42

Dear Bob,

Enclosed is the Wickard opus, with pictures and considerable extra official data on gardens. The piece was revise (I feel a bit reluctantly) to include some garden stuff. In addition, there is going to you, under separate cover, some garden and canned-food photos, a few of which are Kodachromes, from both Roy Stryker and the AAA photo division. I assured Stryker his Kodachromes would be returned in good condition and as soon as possible. Unless the AAA photos, which I haven't seen, fill the bill you may not have what you want. Stryker has not had much occasion to make this kind of shot. Inclosed are three 35mm. Kodachromes from the Department which may help.

All the photo's by Wickard are identified in my illegible scrawl on the back. One, of him, is by his daughter Ann. Another of him is as yet without credit because it was not labelled. I have been told that it, too, is by Ann. Wickard uses a 35mm Kodak Bantam.

A few notes about the garden part of this story: "Don't dig up your front lawn" might well be a slogan-caption, because that is one of the great concerns here. Only the seed companies want people to do this, and no one else will profit. Definitely such gardens are not for city people. It is okay for suburbanites, though, with the proper advice and supervision. Information may be obtained by our readers if they write or speak to the county agent or members of the U.S. Dept. Ag. War Board, a branch of which is in practicaly every county. (Incidently, they intend to send reprints to all these members).

I assured the Department I would show them a dummy, in which all changes could be checked. That do not expect as many changes as I think you may find necessary. I would recommend that you have this back to me as soon as possible so we wont be held up on final approval here. Things can be very slow here.

The food for freedom program breaks down into the following divisions: dairy products, corn-hog and related products, poultry products. Processed milk is exported under the lend-lease program to our Allies (and in this connection I recommend broad reference because more than England is or can be involved by the time the piece comes out) as cheese or dried powdered milk. I am told that in spite of the pictures, not much evaporated milk is shipped abroad because powdered milk takes up less space. The same is true of eggs. However, as the pictures show, all these comparatively new things are used in the US, where they take valuable foods to more people at less cost.

Wickard's own participation in the program as a farmer is largely under the corn-hog program, though he is expanding his production. He is in the corn-hog belt, and his cattle at present are now dairy cattle. The map has a tracing showing how, by field, he has organized his production. It is almost entirely devoted to the program. The wheat fields are small. He uses wheat as a rotation crop and feeds it to his stock I am told some of his hog pictures are from the agricultural point of view unusual because they show such large numbers in one pictures. Hogs dont like to be photographed, they say, and spread out most of the time.

Please let me know what's what on this as soon as you can. I hope it was enough of what you want. Also, remember the reference to American City for May 1917 the mistakes of the last war garden program.

I have started on the picture story "This Democracy we are Fighting For" and will probably have some pictures in 10 days or two weeks. Stryker wont by-line personally or by title of his organization, though he would appreciate picture credits. He and Rosskam say some slight text and captions will be necessary. It occurs to me that you might well handle the words personally after I send the pictures in. They think someone like McLeish should handle the byline.

On the Henderson things: Rationing will not be new by the time we can come out with such a piece. Do you still have the same idea, a piece on the merits and democracy or rationing? If so, for when?

Another possible story is the new Economic Warfare Board. I am looking into this and will let you know about the possibilities in a short while.

Please tell Allan that there is nothing to report on the Peru story and he will hear from me as soon as there is. Also, his message reached here and was appreciated. When the time comes, something may be done about it.

Please tell Whiting that I have told the Farm Security people who are preparing more murals for the Treasury that he has some fine military pictures they might be able to use. If he has any he should send them to Edwin Rosskam, FSA Historical Division, 14th. and Independence Ave., SW, Washington, D.C. Ed is combing back issues of LIFE to see if he can find suitable shots. Have you anything from CLICK you'd like him to see? If you have, please send it to me.

Also enclosed is my expense account.

I hope I haven't forgotten anything.

Yours

Harold Weisberg